

## BIRDS' HOLIDAY DAINTIES

**Yellow-Leg Snipe Travels Some 9,000 Miles for Christmas Dinner—Robins Like Holly Berries.**

The yellow-leg snipe travels a matter of 9,000 miles to get his Christmas dinner. It is pretty nearly the longest journey made annually by any living creature, and the object of it seems to be to procure certain dainties in the way of aquatic insects and crustaceans appropriate for holiday fare.

One might say, however, that the most appropriate of Christmas dinners is eaten by the robins which at this holiday season feed largely upon the berries of the holly—particularly upon the berries of a kind of holly called the black alder, which are as bitter as quinine.

Another bird which has an interesting Christmas is the mocking bird. He is a planter of the mistletoe berries and mistletoe berries contribute largely to his Christmas dinner. Being particularly fond of them he incidentally, though without intention, carries the seeds to tree branches where they promptly fasten themselves and sprout. In this way the parasitic plant is widely propagated in Texas, which is the principal winter resort of the mockers.

The canvasback duck breeds in the far North, from Minnesota to the Arctic circle, in the interior. But the call of Christmas turns it southward, and it spends the holidays along the southern Atlantic coast, from the Chesapeake to Cuba. It feeds on various aquatic plants, but the piece de resistance of its Christmas dinners is wild celery—a succulent, water vegetable which gives to its flesh a flavor highly appreciated by the epicure.

The wild Canada goose goes all the way to Mexico in winter, spending Christmas among the lakes in that far southern latitude, where nutritious grasses and water plants are plentiful.

The chances are that at least the hinting for Christmas presents will be done early.

### A Christmas Carol.

Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all and infinitely more.

He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world. Some people laughed to see the alteration in him, but he let them laugh, and little heeded them; for he was wise enough to know that nothing ever happened on this globe, for good, at which some people did not have their fill of laughter in the outset; and knowing that such as these would be blind anyway, he thought it quite as well that they should wrinkle up their eyes in grins, as have the malady in less attractive forms. His own heart laughed; and that was quite enough for him. . . . And it was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed that knowledge.

May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless us every one!

### MISTLETOE.

We two stood near  
The chandelier  
With mistletoe upon it.  
A lovely girl,  
My head whirled,  
Her wrap—I'll help her don it.

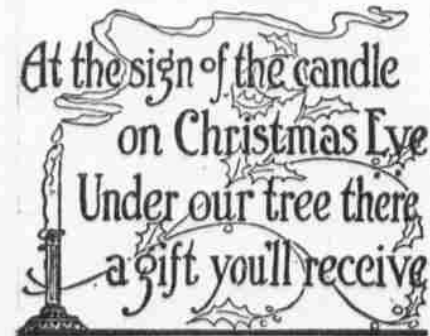
A button caught;  
I surely ought  
To help, when she'd begun it.  
A pause, a hush,  
A kiss, a blush,  
And now, by Jove, I've done it!  
—Lehigh Burr.

### Great Process.

"I am glad to see you home, Johnny," said the father to his small son who had been away at school, but who was now home on his Christmas vacation. "How are you getting on at school?"

"Fine," said Johnny. "I have learned to say 'Thank you' and 'If you please' in French."

"Good!" said the father. "That's more than you ever learned to say in English."



**Christmas Evening.**  
To make the table pretty for the evening meal, leave the shades off the candles. Use white candles in glass sticks. Wipe with a moist cloth and dip the candles in diamond dust.

**Dr. Hornback Oculist and Aurist Hannibal, Mo.**

## TWO TOTS IN A TOY SHOP

**Little Denny Was Almost Beyond Hope in the Eyes of His Older Sister, Aged Six.**

She was six if she was a day; she had a little fat back in a little black coat and her wisps of red hair matched her red tam-o-shanter. In her firm hand she held a struggling boy about a year younger, and they were getting into the elevator at a big department store and making for "toys."

Children are not allowed, unaccompanied by guardians, in most large shops, but such was her air of responsibility, of decorum, that it would have been a bold floorwalker who dared to question her.

Nor, evidently, was it her first visit. The boy, still held in leash, ran in front and made straight for the space devoted to Santa Claus, his reindeer and his sleigh, piled with toys.

There was a background of fir and cedar and a huge Christmas tree, but the pair sat down before the fascinating old fellow in his red robe, his long white beard, holding his big whip, and from his face the small boy did not turn from worshiping in solemn adoration.

Across the room was a creche; also a wonderful and beautiful thing. The infant Jesus in the manger, the mother in her blue robes, St. Joseph, with his staff, the three kings resplendent.

The children had been perfectly still for fifteen minutes looking at Santa Claus, when the little girl whispered to the boy. He squirmed, struggled, but she was too much for him. She dislodged him from his seat, dragged him to the creche, and with motherly, Irish piety, pressed him on his knees.

Reverently she described the holy group, then would incite devotion from a more human motive.

"See the cow, Denny; you mind the cow we used to milk last summer at the farm when we went on the fresh air? See the goat, Denny; you mind the goat in our alley? It's his pitcher." But Denny whined and pulled and pulled to be back again to his idol.

The little girl looked up. Her sigh was that given by every woman since the beginning, for every man for whose soul she holds herself responsible.

"Denny," she said, "Denny likes Santa Claus better than he likes God."

It's time to hang your stocking high  
And let your notes to Santa fly  
Straight up the chimney  
far away  
So you'll get your presents  
Christmas Day



### Farmersville.

Johnny Shoemyre has a new buggy.

Those on the sick list, Mrs. Fannie Shuck, Mrs. Mack Thompson, Oscar Little, Ernest Batty, Elmer Lewellen, A. Y. Crawford, Jake Shoemyre, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Huff, Miss Mertie Huff and all of Tom Yager's folks.

John Thompson was seen on our streets Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Wilson visited Uncle Tom Waller at Alfred Huffs one day last week.

Frank Kieffer spent Sunday with W. D. Greaves and family.

Lon Berry and wife, Ed Kieffer and wife ate Sunday dinner at John Shulse's.

George Lowery went to Center Saturday.

Mrs. John Shuck and son, Ira spent Sunday with Mrs. Fanny Shuck and family.

J. H. Bond is about the busiest man in Farmersville these days.

Lambert Little went to Monroe City for the Farmers Co., Saturday.

### YOUR LAST CHANCE

One more day in which to select Xmas gifts for gentlemen. We have them in many varieties.

**HANLY & GREEN**

## FRENCH CHRISTMAS OMENS

**Ancient and Curious Beliefs Regarding the Holiday—Miraculous Cures for Various Ailments.**

In France, particularly, superstition dies hard, and there is probably no other country where the people still retain so many ancient and quaint beliefs in connection with Christmas day. Several of these relate to miraculous cures of all the ills which flesh is heir to. For instance, the chilly proceeding of bathing on Christmas day is supposed to insure one against both fever and toothache during the coming year, another preventive of fever being the abstention from all meat on December 25th, a great sacrifice for the average man; while a remedy for ulcers could be obtained by those who refrained from eating prunes on that day.

A cure for everything, however, can be found in the large loaf chiefly made in Provence, and called "Le pain de calende." It is very large and very white, and from it is cut a small piece, marked with a knife with three or four crosses. This is carefully preserved as a remedy, and used when required, the remainder of the loaf being divided among the family on the Feast of Epiphany.

With regard to bread, it is believed that loaves baked on Christmas eve remain fresh for ten years, and during the whole of the holidays a portion of bread was left out on the table night and day because the Madonna might come in to share it. But unless she wishes to bring misfortune on the entire family, it behooves the French housewife not to bake any bread between December 25th and the Festival of Circumcision.

Cattle can be kept in good health by giving them something to drink immediately after midnight mass on Christmas eve before entering the house. And a good harvest could be insured if the corn about to be sown is carried to its destination in the cloth used for the Christmas dinner.

If you visit a fountain or a well on New Year's day and place in it either an apple or a nosegay, the water will be rendered wholesome throughout the year. No Frenchman, however, will lend anything to anyone on January 1, for it is believed that by so doing he would bring ill luck upon himself for the ensuing year.

### Rev. Thompson Injured.

Rev. H. D. Thompson of LaBelle who has been here lecturing in the interest of the Anti-Saloon League was painfully injured Sunday night as he was returning to Shelbyville from Plevna. Rev. Thompson was in an automobile and was riding in the rear seat. In crossing a small bridge the driver did not slow down soon enough and the car received such a jolt that Mr. Thompson was thrown out of the seat. He struck the bow in the top of the car with such force that his head was badly bruised and a gash was cut on his nose. Monday morning his eyes were black and we quite agree with his own assertion—he looked like anything but an anti-saloon worker. —Shelby Co. Herald.

### Dedication.

The new \$30,000 Odd Fellows Temple at Hannibal will be dedicated Tuesday, December 28th, at 2:30 p. m. J. P. Boyd, grand master; Jno. R. Hughes, deputy grand master; C. M. Hartly, grand warden; J. J. Brown, grand herald, assisted by other acting grand officers will officiate. Work in all degrees at 7:30 p. m. All Odd Fellows invited.

### Card of Thanks.

We desire to thank our numerous good friends who were so faithful during the late sickness and death of our darling husband and father, Willard David Barnes. The tokens of sympathy and floral offerings will be long remembered by his heart broken wife and children. Mrs. Dora Barnes, Maurine, Burton and Bennet Barnes

### Card of Thanks.

We desire to express our appreciation for the kindness shown us during the illness and death of our beloved husband and father. Mrs. Lucinda Thomas and children.

### Card of Thanks.

We desire to express our sincere appreciation for the many kindnesses and floral offerings given during the recent illness and death of our beloved father, H. C. Fuqua. The Family.

## Just the Book for Xmas

Everybody's laughing at "Reuben: His Book" by Hon. Morton H. Pemberton. "Reuben" Humorist of Chattanooga and Lyceum Companies. A handsomely bound volume of 300 pages, containing Reuben's humorous lectures and all of Reuben's European travels.

### Endorsements:

"I read 'Reuben: His Book' with intense delight. I have not laughed so much since I first read Mark Twain."—Champ Clark.

"I know of no better substitute for a trip to Europe than 'Reuben: His Book.'—Herbert S. Hadley, Ex-Governor of Missouri.

"It is indeed a relish, and deserves a place in any library."—Elliott W. Major, Governor of Missouri.

"Keep Reuben busy."—Robert J. Burdette.

"Those who have read 'Reuben' will wish to read more from his graceful pen. He has a most attractive style."—Walter Williams, Dean, School of Journalism, University of Missouri.

"Reuben is deservedly called another Mark Twain."—Williamsburg, Kansas, Star.

For sale only by the Author. 3rd edition, 17,000. Price \$1.00, postpaid. Address, Morton H. Pemberton, Jr., Columbia, Mo.

Those indebted to the Farmers & Merchant Telephone Co. please pay at once. 12-30

All orders for cut flowers filled in shortest possible time. Mrs. W. H. Wilson.

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quire at this store.

## JOHN MEDCALF

## Fresh Cut Flowers

for Weddings, recep-  
tions, Christmas, fun-  
erals and all occa-  
sions. Phone your  
order to

**MRS. W. H. WILSON**

Patrons of the F. & M. telephone  
who are delinquent will please set-  
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A. L. Abell, veterinarian.

## No Doubt

Some of your friends  
who have joined

## Our Landis Christmas Savings Club

Are saving their money to buy  
presents FOR YOU.

Are YOU  
using the same foresight and precaution?

Don't let the Holidays come and find  
you unprepared.

Have the Money to enjoy Christmas  
as you like to enjoy it. Make it a  
Sure Thing.

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You can easily keep up the small weekly payments  
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You'll thoroughly enjoy a Winter  
spent in San Antonio, Galves-  
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other Texas resorts. Try it  
this year!

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